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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUEHSP/AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE 6799
INFO RUEHWN/AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY 9982
RHMFISS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 029391

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/25/2019
TAGS: [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PREL](#) [TD](#)
SUBJECT: WRITTEN ASSURANCES SOUGHT TO ADVANCE SECURITY
ASSISTANCE FOR SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

REF: A. GOTT DIPNOTE 2308 DATED 9 DECEMBER 2008
[1](#)B. TTO TTX DATED 12-14 JANUARY 2009

Classified By: WHA/CAR Dir Velia M. De Pirro for E.O. 12958, 1.4(b,d)

[1](#)1. (U) This is an action request. See paragraph 3.

[1](#)2. (C) Background. In response to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago (GOTT) request for USG security support for the Fifth Summit of the Americas (SOA), USSOUTHCOM has developed a robust Concept of Operations for consideration by the U.S. Secretary of Defense (SECDEF). Per ref A, the GOTT has requested that the USG provide a defensive counter-air capability over the Port of Spain area and Maritime patrols in tier III (12-200 nm) in the North/Northeast sector of Trinidad and Tobago (TTO). Through Mission Analysis and the request for information process (RFI), DoD has determined that its essential tasks would be Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) and Combat Air Patrols. Air or Maritime interception operations may require authorization for USG forces to enter the GOTT territorial seas, land, and airspace to address specific threats to the SOA. Per ref B, the GOTT Chief of Defense has provided oral assurances, but DoD now requires this information in writing from the GOTT.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Begin Action Request. Post is requested to request in writing, from the most appropriate senior GOTT officials, permissions to deploy and operate in the GOTT territorial seas, land, and airspace. Post should submit these questions under the cover of a diplomatic note. Specifically, post should seek answers to the following:

-- Does the GOTT grant USG military forces permission to enter the territorial seas, land, and airspace of Trinidad and Tobago (ref A) in the case of pursuit of an aircraft or vessel that represents a threat to the SOA?

-- If not, is the GOTT prepared to receive handoff and to interdict threats in its own territorial seas, land, and airspace?

-- Will the GOTT grant the authority for USG forces to use force, up to and including deadly force, if necessary, to protect the lives of the SOA participants in the territory of Trinidad and Tobago, including the territorial seas, land, and airspace? End Action Request.

[1](#)4. (U) The formal response from the GOTT should be sent front channel as soon as possible. Please slug responses to State POC Michael Fortin and Jonathan Mitchell, WHA/CAR (202)-647-5088, SOUTHCOM LTC Louis Poore (305)-437-2440, and JS/J3 LCDR Anthony Saunders and CAPT Kevin Flanagan at (703) 695-1726.
CLINTON